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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Stratistika NeaACTS OF VIOLENCE INCREASE IN BULGARIA

According to information from Bulgaria, an increase has been noted in violent acts committed by rural inhabitants. Some increases have also been noted in the armed opposition to the regime.

In Kubrat Okoliya, an attempt was made against the leader of the militia. In the town of Bezhanovo, there was a serious uprising among the inhabitants for the purpose of regaining possession of their fields and agricultural tools and equipment. The local police intervened to put down the uprising, but it did not succeed. Consequently, a military unit from Pleven was called to aid the local police. It is noteworthy that the commander of the military police unit returned to his base without putting down the uprising. He said that "this matter concerns only the police and not the army." The commander was arrested for this act. Finally, the uprising was suppressed after the arrival of strong police forces from Lukovit, and after a lengthy engagement, during which three police-men were killed, about 150 villagers fled to the mountains.

A serious engagement also took place in the town of Zav ^[sic] between an armed group of Dimitur Atanasov, former militiaman, hidden in the Ostar Mets forest of Kubrat Okoliya, and Communist forces. During the engagement, many were killed, including the leader of the group. Another engagement between former militiamen who are now against the regime and militia forces took place in Ruse Okoliya. Another similar engagement took place in Kyustendil Okoliya. After each engagement, mass arrests of villagers, accused of working with the revolutionaries, are carried out, while many others flee to the mountains.

In the meantime, new data verify that Asen Stabulinski ^[sic] or Stambulov? is the leader of armed groups in the mountains, near Sliven. It is reported that a guerrilla group of 150 men, who had escaped from the Sliven prison, was organized. Among them was also Asen Stabulinski. It is said that new guerrilla groups have been organized. The total number of armed guerrillas operating throughout the country is said to be about 2,000. This figure could have been much larger, but it seems that there is a lack of weapons to equip the villagers who flee to the mountains.

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Finally, various acts of sabotage, also noted in urban centers, characterize the popular opposition against the Communist regime in Bulgaria. In the Iskur section of Sofia (an industrial suburb), a most serious act of sabotage took place in an oil refinery. Many persons were arrested, and their fate is unknown. Recently, another act of sabotage took place near Sofia. A train, loaded with war material, heading for Mezdra, was blown up.

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